

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 IO-11 JUSE-00 OES-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:JFKEANE:MM

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P 162324Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON MEXICAN DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: MEXICO 608, MEXICO 574

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOT HAD INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE VARGAS ARTICLE IN EXCELSIOR. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CASE WE DO. DEPARTMENT PREFERS TO REFER SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE GOM, SINCE ANSWERING SOME WILL LEAD TO MORE, AND A VERY SLIPPERY SLOPE.

2. QUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THE REPORT THAT THE US PLANS TO USE SATELLITES FOR LOCATING MEXICAN POPPY FIELDS AND WILL BEEF UP THE NUMBER OF US AGENTS IN MEXICO FROM 22 TO 30 IN THE
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CAMPAIGN TO CUT OFF THE FLOW OF HEROIN FROM THAT COUNTRY?

A. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED AND OPERATES A VERY COMPREHENSIVE DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM. MEXICAN EFFORTS TO STOP THE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING IN ILLICIT DRUGS ARE A MAJOR PART OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL EFFORTS. UNDER THE 1961 SINGLE NARCOTICS CONVENTION, ALL SIGNATORIES AGREED TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND COOPERATE IN CONTROL EFFORTS. MEXICO AND THE U.S. ARE SIGNATORIES TO THAT

AGREEMENT, AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT MEXICO HAS A STRONG COMMITMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT IF AND WHEN THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS OUR COOPERATION, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST AS WELL TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN BE. HOWEVER, IT IS A MEXICAN PROGRAM, AND BECAUSE IT IS, I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE APPROPRIATE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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